

Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (ICVS)

Quarterly Report:

October 1 – December 31, 2012

DISASTER

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service deployed 10 AmeriCorps members to Louisiana for Hurricane Isaac and 12 AmeriCorps members to New York for Hurricane Sandy relief efforts. In Louisiana, AmeriCorps members provided volunteer coordination assistance working with groups of volunteers and homeowners to prioritize work to be done on flood/hurricane impacted homes. In New York, members provided critical sheltering service, working with the City of New York, in the days following Hurricane Sandy. Members also provided volunteer coordination, debris removal, and mucking and gutting of homes across the greater New York area.

AMERICORPS

AmeriCorps State Funding – In November, the ICVS received requests for funding from 23 applicants for 2013-2014 programs. All applications have undergone a staff review and selected applicants are working on revisions with assistance from two contracted grant writing consultants. The most promising applications will be forwarded to a national competition for AmeriCorps funds; programs not selected for national funding have the opportunity to compete for state-level formula funds.

IOWA MENTORING PARTNERSHIP (IMP)

26 Program Coordinators from quality certified mentoring programs received a scholarship to attend the Iowa Mentoring Partnership's Elements of Effective Practice training at the Iowa Non Profit Summit on November 7.

The Iowa Mentoring Partnership's new administrative rules were adopted and filed to heighten the scope of safety for adults and youth in mentoring programs. Quality certified mentoring programs are now required to:

- Adopt a written risk management policy.
- Review appropriate/inappropriate contact information with mentees and parents/guardians, and review how to report inappropriate contact.
- Review appropriate/inappropriate contact and safe meeting places information with new and re-trained mentors.
- E-mentoring programs system of communication between mentors and mentees must be secure and supervised.

All new and recertifying programs will be reviewed for implementation of these additional standards.

PROMOTION AND RECOGNITION

Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame – In late November, review committee members scored nominations received and recommended a slate of inductees, which was approved by the ICVS during its Dec. 18 meeting. New inductees will be recognized Feb. 19 in the Capitol Building. Honorees include:

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY (one person providing outstanding volunteer service to benefit others)

- Richard Hettinger, DDS of Sioux City
- Myron (Mike) Wilson of Cedar Rapids
- Leo Chisholm of Osage
- Shirley Kessel of Lamoni

ORGANIZATION/NONPROFIT CATEGORY (not-for-profit organization providing voluntary service to others):

- The Junior League of Des Moines (JLDM)

Upcoming Days of Service – In December, ICVS began a partnership with the Iowa staff of the Presidential Inauguration Committee to expand the impact and reach of MLK Day in January. Organizations planning service projects in honor of the inauguration and/or MLK Day are encouraged to send the details to ICVS.

TRAINING

Iowa Nonprofit Summit – this annual training event, held at Hy-Vee Hall in Des Moines on Nov. 7 & 8, was attended by nearly 400 people representing various nonprofit organizations and volunteer or national service programs from across the state. More than 40 workshops were offered; keynote speakers included Dr. Ken Culp III from the University of Kentucky and Wendy Spencer, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

OUTREACH EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Coaches Mentoring Challenge – The 2012 Coaches' Challenge in Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska — a friendly contest of who can sign up the most mentors, led by head coaches Bill Snyder, Kansas State University; Charlie Weis, University of Kansas; Kirk Ferentz, The University of Iowa; Paul Rhoads, Iowa State University; Mark Farley, University of Northern Iowa; and Bo Pelini, University of Nebraska — ended in November, with undefeated champion Kansas taking home the trophy and almost 7,500 mentors recruited overall.

The Coaches' Challenge launched in 2008, when Kansas State University's Coach Bill Snyder and Nebraska's Athletic Director and former Coach Tom Osborne — both advocates for youth mentoring — made their first wager on which state could recruit the most mentors during the college football season. Competition ramped up in 2011, when Iowa joined, making it a three-state challenge. In Iowa's two years of participation, they have recruited more than 5,000 new mentors.

Volunteer Iowa: A Call to Service – momentum continues to build on the (What's Your 50?) campaign developed to spread the word about Governor Branstad's challenge to all Iowans to serve 50 volunteer hours per year. One workshop session during the Iowa Nonprofit Summit was devoted to helping nonprofits understand how they could join the campaign to enhance their volunteer recruitment and promotion activities. A team of volunteers has been assembled to create an online app so volunteers can easily track and report their volunteer service hours and activities. As part of the campaign, a weekly article—*The 50 Faces of Volunteerism*—is featured on the ICVS' Facebook page (www.facebook.com/volunteeriowa). One volunteer is featured weekly to draw attention to the diversity of volunteers and volunteer opportunities in Iowa.

State Service Plan – In December, ICVS Commissioners voted to approve a final draft of the 2013-2016 State Service Plan (SSP) and forward it to Governor Branstad for his review and approval. This plan, developed with input from the public and key partners, serves as a blueprint for maximizing civic engagement and service in Iowa. ICVS will use its resources and partnerships to fulfill strategies outlined in the plan, which is broken up into the following five areas: 1) Developing New Service Opportunities, 2) Improving Existing Services & Programs, 3) Building a Culture & Climate for Service, 4) Expanding Iowa's Volunteer Base, and 5) Building Iowa's Volunteer Infrastructure.

Global Youth Service Day – Youth Service America (YSA) recently announced the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (ICVS) will serve as a State Farm Lead Agency, organizing Iowa's young people to lead service-learning projects that improve their communities. As a lead agency, ICVS receives a \$2,000 grant, as well as ongoing training and expert consulting, to develop high-visibility, youth-led community service projects in the lead-up to Global Youth Service Day (GYSD), April 26-28, 2013.

We are excited to again be a Lead Agency for GYSD. This allows us to provide support and resources to Iowa communities. We will be asking our Volunteer Generation Fund grantees to apply for a mini grant

which will allow them to meet a community need. They will be having a youth-led planning committee, which will include an evidence-based model of planning (Investigation, Planning, Action, Reflection, Demonstration/Celebration). Project planning begins on Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service (January 21, 2013), and projects culminate on Global Youth Service Day, the world's largest service event. As a State Farm Lead Agency, ICVS will engage at least 600 youth in their GYSD events.

ICVS is one of 100 recipients of the State Farm Lead Agency grant, which was available to organizations in the United States and the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Ontario and New Brunswick. In partnership with YSA, State Farm awarded a total of \$200,000 in Lead Agency grants to support youth-led projects designed to improve communities.

RESULTS

ICVS AmeriCorps VISTA Team – In December the following five new Volunteer Iowa AmeriCorps VISTA members began their service:

- Tiffany Hartford, serving with Iowans for Social and Economic Development in Des Moines
- Sherry Mesle-Morain, serving with the Volunteer Center of Southern Iowa in Lamoni
- Julia Ostapiej, serving at the UNI Center for Energy and Environmental Education in Cedar Falls
- Anderson Sainci, serving with the City of Dubuque Sustainability Office in Dubuque
- Daniel Warfel, serving with the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service in Des Moines

Our current VISTA Leader, Terrance Scott, has been organizing networking and service opportunities for members and alums of all AmeriCorps service branches in the Des Moines area.

Iowa Nonprofit Summit – Nearly 76% of evaluation respondents reported attending the conference for the professional development and training sessions offered. And, more than 87% stated the conference met or exceeded their expectations. Results from additional evaluation questions:

- The information/training from this event will be useful to me when I return to my office/agency: 97% agreed or strongly agreed.
- The training I received is relevant to my job/service responsibilities: 94% agreed or strongly agreed.
- Attending the summit has increased my knowledge of nonprofit management practices: 85% agreed or strongly agreed.
- What I learned will increase my ability to use effective nonprofit management practices: 85% agreed or strongly agreed.
- Attending the summit has increased my knowledge of volunteer management practices: 80% agreed or strongly agreed.
- What I learned will increase my ability to use effective volunteer management practices: 81% agreed or strongly agreed.

AmeriCorps – During 2011-2012, Iowa's 18 AmeriCorps programs had another great year of performance. During the year, nearly 1400 individuals applied for the 674 member slots in Iowa. These members provided more than 584,919 hours of service to our state, valued at more than \$12,745,385 (Source: Independent Sector's Value of Volunteer Hour 2011 - \$21.79). During their service terms, members engaged an additional 12,268 volunteers who provided an additional 84,801 hours of service valued at \$1,847,813. Programs establish performance measures within our federal agency's (Corporation for National and Community Service) national performance measure framework. This is an outcome-based system designed to determine the impact of the service on the community and its beneficiaries. Within this framework, Iowa programs met or exceeded 92% of their performance measure targets for completed activities. Local programs leveraged more than \$3 million in local funding with a \$4 million investment in federal funding. AmeriCorps members that successfully completed their terms of service were eligible for more than \$1,840,775 in Education Awards that can be used for post-secondary education or repayment of student loans.

Volunteering and Civic Life in America – Iowans demonstrated their commitment to improving their communities in a variety of ways last year and helped Iowa once again earn one of the top three spots for state volunteer rankings according to the Volunteering and Civic Life in America (VCLA) report released in December. More than 910,000 Iowa volunteers served more than 99 million total hours, which is valued at more than \$2.1 billion.

The percentage of Iowans reporting involvement in volunteer activities increased from 37.9% to 38.4%; and the number of hours served grew from an average of 34.3 hours per resident to 41.9 hours.

Two mid-size cities in Iowa have already exceeded the Governor's Call to Service goal of 50 hours per resident: Iowa City residents volunteer an average of 57.6 hours per year, while Davenport citizens spent 51.2 hours per person volunteering last year. Cedar Rapids is closing in fast with people there reporting 48 hours of service each year.

The VCLA data is part of the most comprehensive annual study of volunteering and civic engagement across the country. The report has become a useful tool for elected officials, civic leaders, and nonprofit executives who recognize the economic impact of an engaged community. These officials and leaders also use the report as a tool to develop strategies to mobilize more Americans in service to address local needs and problems. The complete report is available at www.VolunteeringInAmerica.gov.